The BLIND in Cleveland

1928

HV1796 C5 1928

AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.

The Blind
in
Cleveland

The
CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
2275 E. 55th St., Cleveland

Member of the Welfare Federation
Supported through the Community Fund

HV1796
C5
1928
copy 2

Dramatics—Mrs. Anna Coolman (totally blind) as a Syrian Peddler woman.

Foreword

THERE is no manner of handicap which, from time immemorial, has made such an appeal as that of blindness. This being so, it is strange that means of minimizing the handicap, or even of alleviating the tedium of blindness have waited so long for accomplishment. It is only within the last twenty-five years that the problem of making life something more than merely endurable for the adult blind has been approached and partially solved. Sporadic efforts have been made in recent years but there is yet no accepted standard to work toward nor technique developed by which to work. There are no trained workers because there is no recognized course of training available. Unlimited willingness and kindness and the rule-of-thumb have prevailed in all too many instances. No one wishes to put a check on the desire to do, but that something more than rule-of-thumb is necessary, all are surely agreed.

It is with the desire to contribute something from its own experience which may aid others and suggest what to do, or what not to do, that the Cleveland Society for the Blind has prepared this little book.

I do not believe that the Cleveland Society wants to be regarded as perfect; indeed if it set itself a motto it might well be "Not as having already attained, we press on," but I do believe that Cleveland has a contribution to offer to all plans of work for the blind in the spirit of co-operation and unity of purpose shown by the various agencies concerned for the welfare of the blind in the city. In the following pages these agencies speak for themselves. The problem in Cleveland has been attacked as though it were a picture puzzle and each agency has contributed its number of pieces to make a perfect whole, but no two have contributed pieces for the same place.

If the work for the blind in Cleveland has achieved any measure of success (and I believe it has) much of that success is unquestionably due to a continuity of program and direction in all the agencies whose work is here considered.

PRUDENCE SHERWIN
Vice President—American Foundation for the Blind,
Vice President—Cleveland Society for the Blind.

Publicity—*Mr. C. B. Gleason, Vice President of The Cleveland Trust Co. and president of The Cleveland Society for the Blind, and Mrs. Margaret Fedor, advertising Sight Conservation Week and the annual sale of blind made articles at The Higbee Co.*

The Cleveland Society *for* The Blind

Business Management

Supported from Three Sources
The Society Follows a Careful Budget

THE Society derives its support from three sources, the Community Fund, earnings, and income from endowment. A careful budget for the following year must be completed by August first—and when approved by the Community Fund, the Society must operate within its allowance. The office of treasurer is always filled by a prominent banker or other financier who gives careful and continuous attention to the Society's business, and the trustees are called in consultation when necessary. The Executive Board,* consisting of the officers and the chairmen of standing committees, meets bimonthly, determines policies and passes on all procedure. The Executive Secretary carries out the directions of the Executive Board, and the staff members work under the Executive Secretary.

*See Constitution—Page 21.

Publicity

Places the Organization
Before the Attention of the Public

TOO much cannot be said for the value of publicity in placing the organization before the attention of the public. To sell merchandise, educate the public to patronize such projects as the Broom Shop, Caning Shop, and Weaving and Needlecraft Shops, to promote special sales and campaigns, publicity is the obvious medium.

Some figures on the free publicity secured by the Society in the daily news and society columns, weeklies, and other periodicals during the first six months of 1928 may prove of interest to other social agencies. During that period, estimating space at four dollars per column inch, an extremely conservative figure and far below the advertising rate for similar space, the total publicity would have amounted to $3,644. The special Higbee sale alone, which is a

one week sale of the goods made by Cleveland and Ohio blind, received publicity totaling $1,424, and the merchandise sold during this period showed a gain of approximately two thousand dollars over the previous year. It should be mentioned that this sale was tied up with Sight Conservation Week sponsored by the Society, which helped increase the news value and secured a better type of newspaper article.

In addition to these regular arteries for publicity there are posters, displays of handwork whenever and wherever possible, and occasional direct mail advertising circulars, all of which do their part in reaching the public with the message of the Society. Opportunities are also sought to speak before clubs, churches, lodges and other groups since the spoken message often arouses interest where other means fail.

Social and Case Work

Present a Few Cases Which Show Definite Results

THESE two divisions of the Society's activities are directed by an able young woman with only one assistant, but that one well qualified. Working with a permanent group such as the blind, it is possible to gauge the results of case work far more accurately than in agencies which perforce deal with a constantly shifting group.

Take for instance the story of John Svabada and his family. John was a machinist, making good money and living comfortably. One day, in between jobs, he was tinkering around his own back yard and a piece of metal got into one of his eyes. He went to the family doctor and had it out, but the eye kept getting worse so he went to an oculist who told him he must have the eye removed in order to save his good eye.

Now John was one of these important people who knew more than the doctor so he just laughed at the idea and kept going from one oculist to the other, each telling him the same thing. Then his sight began to dim in the good eye, and, thoroughly frightened, John at last consented to the operation, but it was too late and he also lost the sight in his other eye.

It was at this stage that he was reported to the Society. When the worker first went to call on him he was found to be in a dreadful mental state, talking about committing suicide and wildly rebellious at what seemed to him the turn of fate. He had a wife and little girl to complicate matters. The worker felt that John must be given something to do at once if he were to regain his balance and make some sort of adjustment to his handicap, so he was taken into the Broom Shop operated by the Society. However, a ma-

chinist by trade, this work was too easy for him and he came to work when he felt like it and generally scorned the job.

Finally after weeks of effort, a factory job was found for John way on the other side of the city. He considered this a man sized job and settled down into it at once, but it necessitated his leaving home at four-thirty in the morning and paying a guide to take him to and from the factory. After many more weeks of effort, a little cottage was found just across the street from the factory and was fitted up and the family moved in.

The case work on this particular problem saved the entire family. John is now making a fair living and there is a second child which they are able to support comfortably.

This is just one case out of many. Each presents different problems and must be handled by itself. In addition to the trained case workers on the staff, constant and invaluable aid is received from five committees of volunteers who meet regularly, work enthusiastically, and accomplish a great deal.

Volunteers also solicit and distribute clothing in good condition to blind individuals who cannot care for this item. Six hundred garments were thus placed in 1927.

Another feature of the case work is the attention given to the seventy blind living in eleven institutions in the city. All the committees give these cases special care, and a staff member meets with the volunteers, bringing the experience and advice of a trained social worker to complement the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteer.

A committee of twenty colored women, selected from the Missionary Societies of the colored churches, works exclusively for the colored blind, numbering seventy-four. Recreation is furnished, calls made on shut ins, and clothing and employment secured.

Recreational Opportunities Provided

WHILE the organization is not a relief giving agency, a small fund called the Sunshine Fund furnishes about $600 each year for the special needs among the blind, baskets at Christmas, and extras. The fund consists entirely of gifts from volunteers and friends of the organization.

Case work cannot be mentioned without going into detail regarding the recreational opportunities provided for the blind, because this is felt to be one of the most important parts of the work in shaking individuals out of their melancholy state and giving them the stimulus of associating with other individuals just as handicapped as themselves.

To begin with there are four clubs, two for older, two for younger blind. Among their activities are singing, dancing and dramatics which they particularly enjoy. In the spring of 1928 before the camp was opened, they contributed $800 toward its operation by their dramatic and musical shows.

On the first Sunday of each month an Open House is held at Grasselli House for the blind and their friends. The programs for these affairs which are looked forward to eagerly by the blind, are planned by volunteers. Parties and picnics are given throughout the year and many special features introduced

In addition, several friends have contributed to a fund to supply crystal sets to the blind who are unable to enjoy outside recreation. During 1927 twenty-six sets were distributed and gave a great deal of pleasure. Hundreds of tickets to theatres, concerts, and operas are distributed each year to the blind. In the spring of 1928 fourteen hundred tickets to the Metropolitan grand opera were given to the Society for the use of Cleveland's blind.

The New Camp

Highbrook Lodge, a Valued Gift

HIGHBROOK LODGE, the new summer camp of The Cleveland Society for the Blind, was formally opened in June, 1928. The twenty-three acres of wooded pastures, rambling brooks, and recreation spots already have proven it to be one of the most valuable gifts ever presented to the Society.

Here jaded nerves are refreshed and strengthened; the change of surroundings, so necessary to all, supplied; independence in getting about alone is acquired, and increased courage and ambition gained. Timid blind persons, possibly away from home alone for the first time since going into the dark, are nervous and apprehensive when first getting to camp. But the stimulus gained by association with those suffering from the same handicap and yet living bravely, even gaily, quickly changes their attitude and some really marvelous results follow. An experimental camp was conducted in a temporary location during the summer of 1927, and proved so satisfactory that in the spring of 1928, three friends of the Society bought the present camp as a permanent recreation spot.

It is located thirty miles east of Cleveland and commands a beautiful view of the Chardon valley. The Lodge itself is a remodeled farm house with a comfortable screened-in porch, an airy living room with a fireplace at one end for cool evenings, and sleeping accommodations for eighteen guests. In addition a cottage on the grounds also serves as a dormitory and takes care of another dozen. Then there is a rest cottage up in the woods where absolute quiet is maintained for those who feel the need of just such a spot now and again.

Groups of men and women alternate every two weeks, and during the ten weeks' season, one hundred and twenty blind men and women enjoyed the privileges of the camp.

Here they form a little community of their own, each with his particular task of caring for his own bed and personal possessions, helping with the dishes, preparing vegetables and performing other simple duties. Those directing the camp have been surprised at the zest which the guests have shown in helping with the work, many who do nothing at home, insisting on a share of the daily responsibilities. As both blind and sighted in this world receive from any experience in proportion to what they put into it, so these blind men

and women, feeling that without their assistance, the camp could not operate, develop a happy sense of proprietorship. Each group contains some older and some younger people and not all are physically fit for helpful assistance, but at least a small task is found for each one.

The balance of the time is well planned, but the guests are not conscious of a schedule. Guiding wires are strung to lovely spots and by their aid, even fairly helpless blind can take walks unassisted. There is much reading aloud, playing of games and enjoyment of music, the camp already possessing splendid equipment in piano, radio and victrola. Nearly every group gave a stunt night, and many volunteers connected with the Society for the Blind drove out several times each week, taking their blind friends to ride and offering other diversion.

Each visitor pays two dollars a week during his stay and no exceptions are made. When this is financially impossible, the money is privately raised and given to the individual to pay his way. As the families realize the improvement in health and spirits, many sacrifices are made to enable the blind member to enjoy his "place in the sun," if only for a limited time. The camp was maintained last year by a small staff of three workers, a camp director, assistant and cook.

Education for the Blind

Home Teaching and Lectures

A TEACHER on the staff of the Society for the Blind gives instruction in Braille and Moon types, also in typewriting, pencil writing, etc. This is done in the homes, at Grasselli House and in the several institutions where blind people live. The teacher is in constant touch with the Librarian for the Blind at the Public Library, examining the new books as they come in and advising her pupils as to their reading. It has been found by long experience that some blind readers need constant stimulation to put into practice what they have learned at considerable effort. During 1927 the home teacher, Miss Grace Emerson, brought out a primer in Revised Braille, called the Emerson primer and designed to meet the needs of intelligent adults just learning to read and not caring for children's literature.

Grasselli House is a settlement, and from time to time speakers are glad to relate their experiences or present their views to audiences which are always deeply interested. One political speaker, near the close of his campaign, said that in none of his many meetings had he encountered such pointed questions and such immediate apprehension, as at Grasselli House.

The Howe Publishing Society

Hand Transcribing Work Produces Many Volumes for the Blind

THE Howe Publishing Society founded in 1911 was in 1927 merged with the Cleveland Society for the Blind. Its output has been largely of high type fiction, and in 1927 103 volumes were published for the first time, while a total of 373 volumes were sold. Twelve issues of the Juvenile Braille Magazine were published, an average of 44 copies sent free each month, making a total of 741 pages of juvenile literature which will be compiled into permanent books.

Twenty-two transcribers, previously certified, produced 7584 pages of Braille, 18 books, a total of 96 volumes which were presented to the Department for the blind of the Cleveland Public Library. Instruction and supervision was given to a class of volunteers who, when certified, will also add their contribution of wanted books.

Employment

The Most Essential Work for the Blind

EVERY worker for the blind will agree with Helen Keller that it is not the darkness but the idleness that has the most baneful effect on people without sight. For an able bodied, normal minded blind person to be without suitable occupation is to deteriorate in every way, losing self respect, courage and hope. Nothing is so important as to prepare the blind person for his life work, to teach his family how best to assist him and to educate the public to receive him on a basis of merit. Cleveland has struggled with the employment problem since 1906 and with varying success, but always keeping it clearly in view as the most essential part of its work for the blind.

Business conditions have been such during the last year that the placing of sighted people in industry has been no easy matter, not to speak of finding employment for anyone handicapped by blindness. However, at the beginning of 1928, one hundred and eighty-eight blind men and women in the city of Cleveland were engaged in thirty-two different occupations, working outside of their homes. Many of these people have been trained by this Society and then placed in their present positions, while others have found themselves able to continue their own line of work after becoming blind. If possible, this idea, of course, is always encouraged.

Placement of handicapped persons in industry with sighted co-workers demands an intensive study of the people to be placed, made by trained social workers who know the kind of employment they are best fitted for.

Dictaphone Work

SEVERAL interesting and advantageous placements have been in dictaphone positions, although it took as long as an entire year to secure one of the openings, which has so far proven highly satisfactory to all parties concerned. In the first place, the concern employing a blind girl as a dictaphone operator must maintain a large office or it will not be able to use one person for dictaphone work alone. In most plants the girl operating a dictaphone does several other things besides.

Particularly careful selection must be made of the girl to be trained for this work. She must be high type, with a pleasing personality and good standards of living, and above all, she must be patient and able to make her adjustments to the sighted workers in such a way that they will not resent giving her the little help she needs in getting about the office.

One girl has held such a position for five years and is considered one of the firm's valued employees. Reports on another operator state that she turns out three times as much work as the sighted girls with whom she is working. Four of the five blind women holding good positions as dictaphone operators, are still in their original places.

Factory Work

SIMILAR stories can be told of men working in factory positions. One man in particular was put to work arranging carbon brushes on trays in a large Cleveland factory. He did this work so satisfactorily that within a year he was replacing two sighted girls. He remained with this concern for four years, becoming increasing valuable and performing more difficult operations. This man was taken on sufferance in the beginning and ended by being more competent than sighted help.

Another blind man has been in one factory for eight years. He does light assembling work, puts inserts into covers, and trims casings as the occasion may demand. He is able to support his wife and two children and they live as independently and happily as any of their neighbors. Another totally blind man has been in the same factory since 1914.

With proper placement, outside employment can be highly successful, but it does take the right man for the right job. And, of course, before all that, the hardest work is securing the opportunity to give the man a chance. Unemployment is a grave problem throughout the country, and machinery is replacing many of the repetitive jobs that blind men have previously been able to do. This means constant research for new types of work and a particular effort to secure the cooperation and support of employers.

Sixteen blind men and six blind women are working in Cleveland factories. The men do assembling, stacking laminations, nutting and packing, while the women do creasing in a paper box factory.

Refreshment Stands

A Recognized Means of Employment

STAND keeping in factories, hospitals, and office buildings is now a recognized means of employment for the blind. The fairly intelligent man who may not be clever with his hands finds an opportunity in this business of building up a trade to the point where he secures a comfortable living for himself and his family. Of course, the income from a particular stand depends primarily on its location and the number of people to whom it is readily available; aside from that, the success of the undertaking depends entirely on the personality, business ability, and capacity for hard work of the blind person in charge.

Openings of this kind are not easy to secure, as all sorts of objections have to be met, and the person in authority at the place in question must be convinced that the undertaking can be handled by a blind person. Once established, it requires careful watching and supervision until the blind person becomes thoroughly familiar with the operation of the stand. Everyone must be kept satisfied, from the person who granted the concession, on down through the customers to the blind man himself, who is apt to become discouraged.

A stand can take as little or as much space as is available. Needless to say, a large talking point in getting a stand is just what can be done with a tiny space. Many of our factory stands have started out in a space not over nine by five feet. One man has been conducting a thriving business in a space of this size for several years. In other cases employers enlarge when they are sure of the success of the venture. Sometimes a stand will start out selling just a few things, such as candy and tobacco, and will end up by being a regular lunch counter with the other things on the side.

Enough cannot be said about picking the right type of person for this job, since the placement of the wrong person, nine times out of ten, will jeopardize the chances of ever getting another blind man in that particular stand.

Practically all the standkeepers have a business which warrants a helper and by having this helper, a sighted person, things are very much simplified. Frequently the helper is some member of the man's family who is sure to look after his interests and will help him to build up his business.

Two successful hospital stands have been opened during the last year. This has proven a benefit both to the hospital and the operator. It is a real service to the doctors, nurses, and patients, as well as to visitors who find it convenient to be able to buy something right in the hospital to take up to the person they are visiting. There is one danger, and one that has to be watched most carefully, or the standkeeper will be in serious difficulties with the hospital authorities. He must not sell forbidden edibles to patients and this is

apt to be something he could not be expected to know anything about. In one of the hospitals everything has to be signed for at each ward by the head nurse, and in this way an absolute check is kept.

Efforts are being made at present to establish stands in many of the other hospitals in the city, as well as in factories and public buildings. It is felt that the independence of operating his own business, as well as the income derived from most of the stands, make it one of the most profitable sources of employment for a blind man.

Piano Tuning

IN Ohio, as elsewhere, the State School for the Blind has turned out many piano tuners who were well qualified to make this business their life work. Cleveland established a Tuning Department for the Blind in connection with the Day School Classes as long ago as 1916. Young men were taught the trade from the beginning and others given opportunity for much needed "brushing up."

The Society for the Blind has made every effort to secure employment for its tuners, who, however, have always carried on their business independently, never clearing their orders through the office of the Society. The tuning in the Cleveland Public Schools was secured many years ago and in time, the schools of the large suburbs also employed blind tuners. Organized effort is made at least once each year to get the work of the churches, public halls, music studios, etc. Private tuning has fallen off as the use of the radio has increased and the Tuning School in connection with the Cleveland Department for the Blind has been discontinued, the feeling being that fewer tuners should be trained. The twelve blind tuners in Cleveland are employed as follows: two exclusively on school work; three doing tuning in music stores; one out very actively selling pianos and other musical instruments and picking up tuning as he goes about; one doing tuning in a nearby Conservatory of Music, and five doing private work which includes the churches and such places mentioned above.

Selling

DISTRIBUTION by the blind of Cleveland ranges from the peddler who offers newspapers on a busy corner and the woman who raises and sells canary birds, to a totally blind executive in charge of the sales department of an important manufacturing concern. In the table showing varied employment, the difference between peddler and salesman is that the peddler carries his wares and the salesman his samples. Cleveland peddlers who are blind offer the

usual articles, except that no begging is allowed and the shoe string, lead pencil man with a tin cup is not seen. An interesting example of a blind person continuing his former work is found in a strong, attractive man who was a butcher in early life. He later became connected with one of the large provision houses of the city and was one of their city salesmen. After losing his sight he continued in his own district where he is well known and liked. He only takes orders for meats, including delicatessen goods, and is quite successful.

The Broom Shop

Earns Its Own Way And Provides Steady Employment

THE broom shop of the Cleveland Society for the Blind was opened in November, 1909, and the first full year—1910—its sales amounted to $1217, with an average number of 5 men employed. The business has grown until in the year 1927, sales amounted to $70,901, with an average number of 21 blind and 2 sighted men at work.

The wages paid to the men compare favorably with those paid to workers in local broom shops employing sighted labor, and a fine spirit of harmony has always prevailed. Coffee is served to the men gratis at noon, and nourishing soup at five cents for a large bowl, forms a substantial part of the noon time lunches. Much good clothing is distributed to the more needy.

The workers in the shop are not a picked lot as may be judged from the following: Of the thirty-one different blind men in the shop in 1927, fifteen were in good health, five in what might be called fair health, and eleven were in poor physical condition. Eighteen were totally blind, five had some useful vision,—although less than 10%,—and the balance, eight, had little more than light perception. Nine men were in the age group of twenty to thirty years; four, thirty to forty years; seven, forty to fifty years; seven, fifty to sixty years, and four, over sixty years.

The men live in their homes or boarding homes and come to the shop from all parts of the city. Opportunity to work in the shop is eagerly sought, as the employment is steady, two weeks' vacation with full pay is granted in the summer, also a bonus at Christmas.

The shop has shown a margin of profit for the past ten years, and this, after all the overhead charged against a shop employing normal workers, had been deducted. This profit goes toward the expense of service work for all the needy blind of the city.

In 1921, the shop was moved into a bright new building, constructed especially for its needs. Its size is 40x80 feet and it contains two stories and basement. An electric elevator and adequate incinerator are needed improvements added during 1926, and paid for out of profits.

Broom Shop Equipment

2 Baltimore Stitchers
2 Combers
1 Cut-off Saw
1 Sizing Machine
6 Winders
1 Sizer
1 Bundle Evener
1 Banding Press
all power driven, and
3 Foot Winders
3 Clippers
1 hand banding press, adequate sorting benches, tank for dipping corn, bleach box, etc.

The superintendent of the shop is a near blind man, a former pupil of the Ohio State School for the Blind, where he later taught basket and broom making. He is expert mechanically and able to do much of the repair work on the power and other machines. While the shop is primarily for employment and not for training, inexperienced men are often taken and are given a flat rate of $10 a week while gaining the necessary skill. The superintendent has the responsibility of their training as well as for the operation of the entire shop. His duties, however, do not include the ordering of materials or supplies.

The product of the shop is disposed of in several ways. One near blind man—on a weekly salary—calls on the smaller concerns, garages, small hotels, clubs, etc., where continual follow-up work is necessary to hold trade. Four blind men, with light perception only, go from door to door peddling the brooms which they carry with them. The balance of the sales are handled through the office by telephone, letters, and also by negotiations with church societies, clubs, etc., which buy at dozen lot prices, and by selling the brooms singly, make a margin of profit for their organizations. The leading grocer of the city, having but two stores, handles blind made brooms which are sold to the firm at the usual 10% discount for gross lots. Every effort is made to sell to the ultimate consumer, and only about 25% of brooms manufactured are for household use.

Broom shops for blind men which depend on selling their output to chain groceries, are apt to run at a loss.

The appended classification of broom customers shows the variety of uses to which blind made brooms are put.

	No. of Customers	% Total Customers
Manufacturing Plants, including Foundries, etc.	801	50%
Distributors of Sundry Products	235	18%
Hotels, Restaurants, Garages, etc.	145	8%
Stores—not for resale	135	7%
Churches, Societies, Hospitals, etc.	126	7%
Contractors, Painters, Decorators, Tinners, etc.	48	3%
Professional Offices	29	2%
Coal and Mining Companies	21	1%
Transit Companies	20	1%
Service Corporations	16	1%
Total	1603	100%

(*Continued on page 20*)

Assembling wire rope clamps at the Upson Walton Co.

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"Creasing" boxes at The Ohio Boxboard Co.

Refreshment and magazine stand in one of Cleveland's large hospitals.

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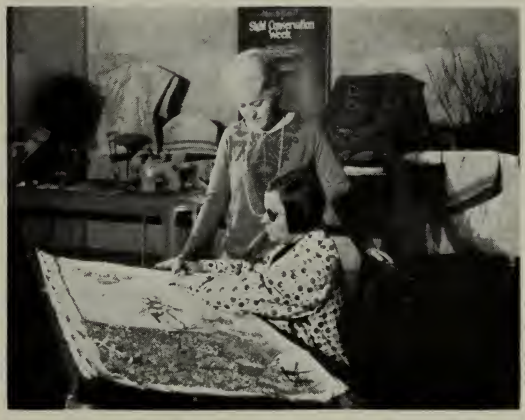
Happiness plus helpfulness at the new summer camp



Demonstration in the lobby of the Union Trust Co.

Lunch counter and Refreshment stand at the Fuller Cleaning Co.

During the spring of 1928, the Boy Scout organization of Cleveland co-operated with the Society in a broom selling campaign which was highly successful. The Scouts only took the orders, deliveries and collections being made by nine leading retail stores. The Scouts were allowed ten cents on each broom collected for, this money being used to pay their expenses at the Scout summer camp. Ten thousand eight hundred of a special broom were so distributed.

The business manager of the Society for the Blind does all the accounting and purchasing, calling on a volunteer committee of business men for advice as to the larger purchases of raw materials.

The shop is operated as a place for real men to work at turning out a real product and one that must stand up under competition in a city where there are several other broom factories. Of the total expense of the broom shop in 1927, 31% was money paid to the blind workers.

Three Other Shops

Caning, Mop Making, Weaving and Needlecraft

A SMALL shop for chair work and mop manufacture is carried on at Grasselli House and ten men are so employed. The new superintendent hopes to add other lines, and additional space will be found as needed.

The Home Industries Department is in charge of a gifted young woman who had excellent preparation and experience before coming to the Cleveland Society. She directs the work of two departments:

The Weaving and Needlecraft Shop operated at Grasselli House employs eight blind women, weaving bath mats, footstool tops, bags, coat materials, runners, luncheon sets, and novelties, and making hooked rugs little wooly dogs, comforts, curtains, garment bags, negligees, slip covers, house aprons, maid's aprons, pot holders, dusters, and shoe bags. This product is always on sale at Grasselli House and at the Higbee Company, a large department store, where blind made articles, both for the Ohio State Commission for the Blind and the local Society are sold. The Higbee Co. has contributed valuable space for this purpose for fifteen years. Once a year a large sale is held at this store for a period of a week. This year, 1928, $5500 worth of merchandise was disposed of in this fashion. Frequently articles made in these shops are also sold at church fairs and bazars.

Home Work and

Employment In the Infirmary

THE Home Work division supplies raw materials, patterns, models, etc., to those blind men and women who are capable of earning, but cannot work outside. After instruction, they turn out hearth and other brushes, doll furniture, children's chairs and stools and baskets of all kinds. Collection baskets for churches are made on order. All these articles are disposed of in the

same way as those made at Grasselli House, and the blind workers get the difference between the cost of the materials and the selling price.

Several years ago three of the city's institutions, the Infirmary, the House of Correction and the Tuberculosis Hospital, were newly located on a beautiful 2200 acre tract of land situated eighteen miles southeast of the Public Square. In the various divisions of the Infirmary are 44 blind people, of whom 16 are in wards for the mildly insane. Twenty-four blind men occupy a sunny ward which was formerly the hospital. The volunteers of this Society have provided a radio and a victrola for this ward and constantly supply fresh reading matter and records. A wheel chair cripple, not blind, lives in the same ward, reads aloud several hours a day, writes letters and cares for other matters for the blind men. This Society gives parties and entertainments for the blind men and few blind women who are not in the insane wards. The daily papers and American Magazine are taken for the ward, much needed clothing supplied, a typewriter loaned and kept in condition, musical instruments supplied the individuals when requested, a generous gift provided for each one at Christmas time, and everything done to make life as happy as possible. In the Infirmary is an occupational room where several blind men are engaged in weaving rugs and table runners, making knitted caps and assisting somewhat in the making of toys. A certain percent of the gross income from the sales held regularly, is returned to the worker, not in money but in articles which he has requested. Blind women sew carpet rags in this occupational room which is the happiest spot on the grounds. No blind person is placed in the Infirmary if he can be helped to maintain himself outside, or if he has relatives who should support him, but for those to whom this is the only haven, life is not only tolerable but happy.

Employment of Cleveland Blind, Jan. 1928

In Factories	Men		Women	
	Totally Blind	Partially Blind	Totally Blind	Partially Blind
Assembling:				
Armature cores	1	....	....	....
Power units	1	....	....	....
Radio parts	1	....	....	....
Wire rope clamps	3	1	....	....
Creasing in paper box factory	....	....	2	....
Folding in lithograph plant	....	....	....	1
Machinist's helper	....	1	....	....
Nutting bolts by hand or machine	1	3	....	....
Packing in stamping works	....	1	....	....
Porter or handy man in factory	....	1	....	....
Sorting in Goodwill Industries	....	....	....	1
Stuffing cushions in automobile factory	....	1	....	....
Tester in electrical plant	....	1	....	....
Wrapping candy	....	....	....	2
	7	9	2	4
Total				22

Employment of Cleveland Blind, Jan. 1928

	Men		Women	
	Totally Blind	Partially Blind	Totally Blind	Partially Blind
Basket Maker	....	1	....	....
Broom Shop	15	6	....	....
Canary birds	....	....	1	....
Cabinet Maker	1	....	....	....
Chair caners	4	3	....	....
Chicken raising	....	....	1	....
Chiropractor	....	1	....	....
Composer and seller of songs	2	....	....	....
Christian Science Practitioner	1	....	....	....
Day Nursery assistant	....	....	....	1
Dictaphone operators	....	....	5	....
Evangelist	1	....	....	....
Factory work	7	9	2	4
Gardener's helper	....	1	....	....
Home workers	6	4	19	8
Insurance	1	....	1	....
Janitor	1	1	....	....
Laborers	....	9	....	....
Magazine subscriptions	1	1	....	....
Massage	....	1	....	....
Musicians	4	2	1	....
Newspapers from strap	....	....	....	1
Office assistant	1	1	....	....
Operate rooming house	1	....	1	....
Operate picnic grounds	1	1	....	....
Organist	....	1	....	....
Peddlers, carry wares	15	15	....	2
Proof readers	....	....	2	....
Refreshment stands	9	3	....	1
Salesmen—carry samples	4	5	....	....
Solicitor for funds	1	....	....	....
Stereotyper	....	....	1	....
Store assistant	....	....	....	1
Storekeepers	1	1	....	....
Teachers—Music	1	1	3	1
Home	....	....	1	....
Tuners	10	2	....	....
Undertaker	1	....	....	....
Watchman	....	2	....	....
Weaving and needle craft shop	....	....	6	1
	89	71	44	20

Total.....224

Constitution
of
The Cleveland Society for the Blind

ARTICLE I.—NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Cleveland Society for the Blind.

ARTICLE II.—PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society is to further the interests of the blind and to open to them all possible avenues to independence and self-support, through investigation, education and recreation.

ARTICLE III.—BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The management of the Society shall be vested in a Board of Trustees composed of not less than five nor more than eighteen members, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society, or at any special meeting called for such purpose, and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

The Board of Trustees shall have entire charge of the property, finances and affairs of the Society, and shall have power to fill any vacancy in any office or in its own body, for the residue of the term.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS

The officers of the Society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer whose duties shall be such as the Board of Trustees shall prescribe.

The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society, but may be appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve until such meeting. No person shall hold the same office for a period of more than three (3) successive years.

ARTICLE V.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The president and vice-presidents, the secretary, the treasurer, the executive secretary, and chairmen of the regular standing committees, shall constitute an executive committee.

The executive committee shall perform such duties as the Board of Trustees shall assign to it, and shall be in charge of the Society when the Board of Trustees is not in session.

ARTICLE VI.—MEETINGS AND FISCAL YEAR

The regular annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Tuesday of February. Special meetings may be called by the president or by two or more members of the Board of Trustees by notice in writing to each member. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Society.

The financial and statistical year shall end December 31st.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended by the assent thereto in writing of two-thirds of the members, or by a majority of the members present at a meeting held for that purpose, of which meeting and purpose written notice has been given to each member.

By-Laws of the Board of Trustees
of
The Cleveland Society for the Blind

ARTICLE I.—MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees shall hold a meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the Society. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the president, and shall be called on the written request of two or more Trustees. The purpose of any special meeting shall be stated in the call, and no other business shall be transacted.

A majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE II.—ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes
2. Reports of officers and committees
3. Unfinished and new business
4. Election.

ARTICLE III.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, shall appoint the chairmen of the General Committees, and perform all duties incident to the office.

2. In the absence of the President, a Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President.

3. The Secretary shall have charge of the records of the Society, shall give due notice of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee and shall keep the minutes of such meetings.

4. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys of the Society and keep an accurate account thereof, shall pay all bills approved by the Board of Trustees or Executive Committee, shall file once each month with the Executive Committee a report of the financial condition of the Society, and shall submit a report at the annual meeting. The Treasurer shall furnish a satisfactory bond in such sum as may be determined by the Board of Trustees for the faithful performance of the duties of such office.

ARTICLE IV.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be in charge of the Society when the Board of Trustees is not in session. It shall conduct the regular work of the Society and shall perform such special duties as the Board of Trustees shall assign it. The Executive Committee shall meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and at one of such meetings the chairman or alternate of each committee shall be present.

ARTICLE V.—GENERAL COMMITTEES

The Society shall have the following general committees, whose duties shall be as herein stated, the chairman of each committee to be appointed by

the President and the other members selected by such chairman in consultation with the President.

1. A Finance Committee, consisting of at least three members, shall devise and assist in carrying out plans for raising funds to meet the requirements of the Society for its work.

2. An Industrial Committee, consisting of at least three members, shall have charge of the workshops of the Society and of the production and sale of all articles made by order of the Committee.

3. A Committee Representing the Blind shall consist of at least six members, whose duty shall be to consider and report to the Executive Committee ways and means for improving and enlarging the work of the Society.

4. A Legislative Committee, consisting of one or more members, whose duty shall be to consider legislation tending to further the work of the Society and to take proper action to secure enactment thereof.

5. Committees for Social Service shall serve the interests of the blind in various sections of the city.

6. A House Committee, consisting of five or more persons, shall have charge of the upkeep of the various buildings used by the Society.

ARTICLE VI.—AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Trustees by a majority vote.

Progress of the Organization

THE original name of the Cleveland Society, and one which exactly stated its purpose, was The Society for Promoting the Interests of the Blind in Cleveland. This proved to be too long for convenient use, and in 1914, it was shortened to its present form.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted in 1906 and articles of incorporation taken out in 1907. As the Cleveland Society was among the first of its particular scope in the country, there was no useful precedent to follow in drawing up the constitution and by-laws. Slight modifications, as of the name, were made throughout the years and in 1927 both constitution and by-laws were revised, a committee spending considerable time on the subject.

The work of the staff of nine at the issuance of this report is divided as follows:

The Executive Secretary carries the usual executive and administrative work, handles publicity, and considerable case work. She has an assistant, who, in addition to other duties, serves as employment secretary. The director of case and social service work is in charge of Grasselli House and the summer camp, and does home service work. Her assistant is responsible for the distribution of clothing, furniture, tickets, etc. The director of home industries also serves as home teacher and supervises the weaving and needle craft shops at Grasselli House. She has an able assistant.

The business manager keeps the books, makes purchases and does considerable outside selling. She also has a competent assistant. The ninth member of the staff is the stenographer who is also switchboard operator and filing clerk.

As the service of the Society is extended to all the blind people of greater Cleveland, a staff larger by several persons than at present could well be used.

Public School Education

Where the Blind Learn to Compete With the Sighted

By

Helen J. Coffin

Supervisor, Division for the Blind, Sight Saving Classes

BLINDNESS among infants and children of school age is referred to the Division for the Blind at the Cleveland Board of Education. Pre-school work, which is carried on by one of the visiting teachers who advises the parents concerning the training of a normal blind baby and gives practical demonstrations in the homes, has already proved its worth. Children so trained are ready to enter kindergarten with seeing children at the normal age. When the child enters the first grade Braille class the teacher is spared many hours of individual work necessitated by the mannerisms characteristic of the untrained blind child. She is able to devote the school time to school subjects and activities.

Such a start helps to insure the same progress in school as that of the sighted child and permits the blind child to pass through his school career with companions of like age and grade. On October 1, 1928, there were 5 blind children under school age being trained in their homes; 3 Braille classes in the public schools with a total enrollment of 28; 5 pupils in senior high schools, and one child at home.

While emphasis is placed upon competitive work with seeing pupils the special needs and aptitudes of individuals are carefully considered. Pupils are given special musical training, including piano lessons, instrumental lessons, and Braille music notation. For a few talented pupils this will lead to advanced training and a profession, for others it will prove a valuable pastime and a social asset. All pupils are given special handwork. With some this is stressed since it develops skill in manipulative processes likely to be required in vocations followed by certain types of pupils. Pupils whose school records make it advisable are recommended to go through high school.

Extra time is required after the regular school hours, on Saturdays, and in the summer in order that the blind child may acquire his education plus this training, which should enable him to become independent and self-supporting and which should minimize his handicap and develop qualities likely to insure success among other workers.

Normal social contacts are important in that they develop self-poise, self-reliance, a sense of values, and an opportunity for happy and helpful living. Blind pupils are members of school clubs, school swimming classes, and school orchestras. Outside of school they are urged to belong to community groups such as Sunday School classes and the boy scouts. During the past summer 5 blind children from the classes attended summer camps with seeing children. Here they gained in health and developed more normal outlooks upon life from the general good time with other children. Such contacts if followed up should lead a large percentage of blind adults who have had the opportunity of being educated with seeing pupils to continue among seeing people in an acceptable and independent manner.

The Library for the Blind
of
The Cleveland Public Library

By

Annie E. Carson,
Librarian for the Blind

THE Library for the Blind is in an attractive and comfortable room on the ground floor of the Main Library. An experienced librarian is in charge to offer service to the blind reader who may come in person with his request for books, and also to the many blind people who cannot easily visit the library.

Books in Braille and Moon types may be borrowed, free of charge, by any blind person desiring to read. Anyone may become a borrower by giving the library his name and address and also the type he reads, and, if a Braille reader, whether grade two Braille or one and a half only is read. It will be helpful if any idea of his age is included, also the preferences for books. A limited number of New York Point books are available, but the reader is advised not to depend on this collection, as many of the books are nearly worn out. There are very few readers of New York Point at the present time.

Books may be kept for one month from the last date stamped in the book; magazines for ten days only. There are no fines, but readers are expected to cooperate in the proper care of the books—especially as embossed books are very expensive. Readers must be held responsible for any damage done to books. To serve the needs of the blind reader the United States government carries books for the blind through the mails without charge. Books are sent out as parcel post packages,—but without postage stamps,—and may be returned in the same way. Return labels are put in the book pockets and are to be pasted over the forwarding labels on the mailing bags when books are returned.

Those desiring to learn an embossed type should apply to The Society for the Blind, if a resident of Cleveland. Applications coming to the library are promptly turned over to the Home Teacher of this society who visits and teaches free of charge.

The collection includes 688 titles and 1903 volumes in Braille, grade one and a half; 480 titles and 986 volumes in Braille, grade 2, and 369 titles and 774 volumes in Moon Type. There is also a small collection in French Braille. The leading embossed magazines are available. The collection is increased by books purchased with funds budgeted annually for the purpose by the library, also by books made by the volunteer hand transcribers, who, in 1927 contributed eighteen titles consisting of ninety-six volumes. An occasional book is presented to the collection as a memorial to some deceased person and this is a beautiful custom and one which brings great happiness.

The Library is open daily from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

Board of County Commissioner
Administers
Financial Relief for the Needy Blind

By

EDITH F. MCHENRY,
Blind Relief Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

INDIGENT blind of Cuyahoga county who lost their sight while residents of the state of Ohio and who have lived in the county for one year prior to application, are entitled to blind relief of from one to three hundred dollars per annum, depending upon the needs of the individual.

In order to secure this assistance the applicant must file with the Board of County Commissioners a duly verified statement of the facts qualifying him for the relief. No money may be drawn until the Board shall be satisfied from the evidence of at least two reputable citizens of the county, one of them a registered physician, that the applicant is blind and that his residential qualifications entitle him to the relief asked. He must also show proof of his financial need. This evidence must be in writing and be subject to the right of cross examination by the board or other persons.

This is the sum and substance of the law regulating the blind relief distributed in the county. Last year two hundred and sixty-three blind persons received relief amounting to $45,754, or an average of $273.97 per person. Since there are 719 blind in the county only twenty-seven per cent of the total number of blind have been found qualified for the relief.

Many apply who are not entitled to it, but on the other hand, every now and again a case comes up where some extremely needy person is found who never heard of this assistance and to whom it means the difference between actual want and a modicum of comfort. Take the case of James and Anna Hess. James had been blind for ten years and also was found to have artero sclerosis. His wife, Anna, had been working for twenty-one years and had been the entire support ever since he became blind. They lived downtown and Anna arose in the morning, did her housework, fixed James comfortably for the day, and departed. At noon she hurried home, prepared his lunch, and returned to work. In the evening there was dinner to be cooked, washing and ironing to be done and all the other million and one things that the woman who works and keeps house must do. Finally a worker from the Society for the Blind discovered the situation, and application for the blind relief was made and granted.

Now Anna is able to have her husband cared for while she works and to enjoy the first peace and comfort she has known in ten years. She admitted she had almost reached the breaking point and couldn't have stood the strain much longer. This is one outstanding case of the transformation which can be wrought by the addition of just this small sum to the family income.

Then there are Mary and John Humphrey, both over seventy years old and threatened with separation and the infirmary. John is totally blind and so crippled that he walks with two crutches. Mary has a little vision in one

eye. Now they both receive the blind relief and are able to maintain their home since their nephew came in from the country to live with them, paying board. Mary cheerfully does all the housework and fusses over John, who is practically helpless. In this case, too, the blind relief was the life saver which made home possible. They both feel independent and are living their own lives without becoming charges of the state.

Many similar cases might be cited, but these two are representative and give a clear idea of just when, why, and how blind relief is administered. No one is entitled to it who is not really needy and who cannot conform to the residential qualifications.

Division of Health

Functions
In Prevention of Blindness Work

By

H. L. Rockwood,
Commissioner of Health

SIGHT-SAVING can best be accomplished before rather than after the eyes are damaged. In former years the number of infants' eyes infected at birth with resulting impaired vision or blindness was so noteworthy that a number of years ago legislation was enacted making one of the first duties of medical attendants in confinement cases the prophylactic care of the eyes of the newly born infant. The Ohio statutes read in part as follows:

Section 1284-1 General Code of Ohio. "Any inflammation, swelling or redness in either one or both eyes of any infant either apart from or together with any unnatural discharge from the eye or eyes of such infant, independent of the nature of the infection, if any, occurring any time within two weeks after the birth of such infant shall be known as inflammation of the eyes of the new-born."

Section 1284-2 which follows the preceding makes it the duty of any physician, surgeon, obstetrician, midwife, nurse, maternity home, or hospital of any nature, parent, relative, and any persons attending on or assisting in any way whatsoever, any infant or the mother of any infant at childbirth or any time within two weeks after childbirth, knowing of such inflammatory condition of the eyes of the new-born, to report within six hours such facts to the local health officer.

Regulation 35 of the Ohio Sanitary Code reads as follows: "The health commissioner, upon receipt of report of a case of inflammation of the eyes of the new-born, shall immediately investigate the case to determine if proper care and treatment to prevent blindness have been provided."

With due regard to the legal responsibilities implied by this legislation the Division of Health has developed in recent years a system of supervising and caring for cases of inflammatory conditions of the eyes of the new-born, which, it can safely be said, has resulted in the prevention of impaired vision or perhaps total blindness of newly born infants in many instances.

Immediate action in such cases is urgent as the eye is a very delicate and easily injured organ of sense. For this reason only six hours is given for reporting cases, whereas in most infectious diseases twelve or twenty-four hours is allowed. For the same reason, on receipt of report of cases, nurses of the Division of Health are charged with the duty of immediately visiting such cases and rendering prophylactic care when a physician has been secured to aid the family in carrying on the medical treatment for the purpose of protecting the eyes of the infant concerned.

This work among infants constitutes the major portion of the sight conservation and eye prophylaxis work of the Division of Health. Below will be found a table showing the number of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum for recent years, together with an indication of the nursing work done in connection with these and other eye cases.

Inflamed Eyes of the Newborn

Reported and Nursing Visits
1919-1927 Inclusive

Year	Ophthalmia Cases	Nurses' Visits to Eye Cases
1927	1,086	25,009
1926	1,046	20,603
1925	1,176	22,437
1924	1,424	23,727
1923	1,408	17,171
1922	1,862	13,685
1921	2,029	17,310
1920	1,550	20,278
1919	830	17,265

A second important activity on the part of the Division of Health in connection with sight conservation relates to the infectious disease known as trachoma. This disease is a more or less chronic granular conjuctivitis which often results in scarring of the eyeballs and subsequent impairment or loss of vision. It is infectious much as tuberculosis is infectious and most of the cases arise from close residential contact with other cases of the disease. City ordinances have long required the abolition of roller towels and the common use of towels in general. The advent of paper towels in public places is no doubt a very large factor in reducing the transmission of trachoma. In this disease for some unknown reason certain racial predisposition in our Cleveland experience has been noted and for a number of years the majority of the cases have affected Italian families.

At the present time there are 313 trachoma cases under supervision of the Division of Health and so long as cases practise the instructions given for the protection of other members of the family and are under adequate medical care, no other quarantine measures are necessitated. From time to time, however, it has been necessary to require the institutionalization of cases where adequate home treatment has been lacking or carelessness as regards infecting others has been found in evidence.

The Division of Health also furnishes midwives free of charge a supply of the prophylactic which such midwives are required to use in attendance upon cases of newly born infants. This prophylactic consists of silver preparations of proper dilution and must be instilled by the midwife into the eyes of the newly born infant immediately after birth. The same prophylactic care is of course also practised by the medical profession.

During 1927 the nurses made a total number of 25,009 visits in the homes in the interests of infants and other individuals where sight conservation work was imperative. Formerly the nurses engaged in sight saving work were especially employed for this purpose and received all assignments from the central office of the Health Division at the City Hall, but in recent years it has been found more efficient to have every one of the 115 nurses employed by the Division of Health charged with the duty of attending any of the cases which may arise in the district where she works. With this arrangement immediately on receipt of the report of a case a nurse can be detailed to visit at once anywhere in the city and institute such prophylactic measures as may be necessary.

Few if any cases of blindness due to infectious eye conditions among newly born children have come to the attention of the Division of Health in recent years and it is believed that the prophylactic work as organized and the efficient cooperation of the medical and nursing professions has brought about this much desired result.

The Ohio State Commission for the Blind

Reports on Work For the Blind in Ohio

By

Mrs. Frances Reed Lumb,
Executive Secretary

THE Ohio State Commission for the Blind was established in 1908. The Commission is a division of the State Department of Public Welfare. The Board of Commissioners is composed of six members, five appointed by the Governor of the State for terms of five years each, the sixth member is the Superintendent of the Ohio State School for the Blind who is member ex officio. The Commissioners serve without compensation.

Aims of the Commission

TO prevent unnecessary blindness,
To provide instruction and employment for the adult blind of the State,
To relieve the condition of the aged and infirm blind.

The Commission operates the following departments:—
Conservation of vision,
Educational,
Employment,
Sales,
Social Service.

The territory covered by the various departments of the Commission includes the entire State with the exception of Cleveland. The welfare of the Blind of Cleveland, and those with defective vision, has been so well provided for through the Prevention of Blindness Department of the Cleveland Board of Health, and the Cleveland Society for the Blind, nationally recognized as the leading organization of its kind in the country, with a well organized staff of experts in all lines of work for the blind, that it is not necessary for the Commission to have much contact with the blind of Cleveland.

Employment for Cleveland blind women working in their homes is provided for those who desire it by the Commission, and a small group of women are receiving material to be made up.

Sales Promotion of Articles

FOR sixteen years through the generosity of the Higbee Company of Cleveland, the Commission has been provided with space in the store where articles made by the blind of Ohio, as well as in Cleveland, are sold. This is one of the most successful departments operated by the Commission in the State.

In addition to the sales made through this department, additional space has been donated by the firm for special sales conducted under the auspices of the several committees of the Cleveland Society with the Committee on the Blind of the Council of Jewish Women in charge.

A check covering the largest amount ever received by the Commission, as the result of a sale, came from the Chairman of the Committee on the Blind, representing the receipts from a sale held by the Committee for one week in March, 1928, at the Higbee store.

Through the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, the interest of groups of club women and church organizations has been solicited, resulting in promoting sales at the department.

During the twenty years of the Commission's existence, there has been the closest cooperation between the Cleveland Society for the Blind and the Ohio Commission for the Blind.

Conservation of Vision Department

ONE physician, a specialist on diseases of the eye, and four registered nurses, with special training on diseases of the eye, compose the staff of the Conservation of Vision Department. The State is divided into four districts and each nurse is assigned a district of twenty-two counties. Staff meetings and a clinic are held in Columbus once a month, under the direction of one of the Opthalmologists serving on the Board of Commissioners. Clinics are planned by the nurses, in various parts of the state, and conducted by the physician on the staff. Several hundred patients are examined, treated, refracted and operated every year.

The adult blind are not grouped in an institution or school but are given instruction in their homes. Seven blind and two partially blind women are employed as teachers. Each teacher is assigned a territory and with the assistance of a guide, calls on the adult blind in their homes. Instruction is given in reading and writing the embossed types and in sewing, knitting, crocheting, brush making, and chair caning.

The blind teacher, by her own example, inspires the man or woman recently bereft of sight, to realize that blindness need not mean idleness or uselessness. When pupils complete the course in reading, they are provided with books and periodicals free of expense.

When pupils complete the course in any one of the industries taught, they are provided with remunerative employment sent to them, through the mail, from the headquarters in Columbus.

Blind men, living in small towns and rural districts, where there is little opportunity for employment, are encouraged in learning a trade adapted to the blind. A Trades Training School, located in Columbus, is conducted

Training and Employment

A TRADES Training School, located in Columbus, is conducted by the Commission. Courses in broom making, basketry, chair caning and brush making are given. When a course is completed the pupil returns to his home where he is assisted by the Commission in becoming established in a shop of his own, which is operated for one year under the supervision of the Commission.

The Commission for the Blind encourages and develops the employment of trained blind men and women in clerical, professional and mercantile pursuits; establishes blind men in home shops and assists them in marketing their products; furnishes home employment to blind women; preference is given to the blind, who are properly qualified, in appointments to positions on the Commission staff.

The Sales Department

THE most difficult problem confronting the Commission is that of disposing of the finished product. The State Legislature has appropriated a special fund, classified as the Rotary Fund, which is invested in the purchase of raw material to be made up by the blind and in payment of wages to the blind. This fund must be kept intact. Sales must be planned and collections made systematically in order to have funds available from which to pay the blind employes for their labor, and to keep them supplied with work.

One hundred and thirty different articles are made by blind men and women employed through the Commission. The plainer articles,—aprons, tea towels, ironing board covers, dress bags, etc., are sold direct to department stores, in wholesale lots, in seventeen states in addition to Ohio.

Retail departments are conducted in department stores in six cities in the state. Through the generous cooperation of the firm space is donated where all of the 130 articles made are offered for sale at retail rates. The only expense to the Commission in connection with this department is the salary of the saleswoman in charge.

Special sales are held in cities, where there is not a department for the blind, under the auspices of the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs, Church Organizations, The Council of Jewish Women and other organizations. Club and Church women have also taken an active part in promoting and assisting with the sales at the department for the blind in the stores. In several cities every club woman has pledged to spend at least one dollar at the department for the blind during the year.

Social Service Department

IN cities and towns in the state where there is not a local organization for the blind, there is a special committee of volunteers working with the Commission in looking after the interests of the aged and infirm blind. These Committees provide friendly visitors for the shut-in blind, who read to them, write their letters, see that they have an opportunity to get to church, take drives, attend lectures and recitals, etc. Tickets are frequently provided for concerts and lectures, radios are installed. There is an annual picnic and a Christmas party for this group. Arrangements are often made, through the Committees of volunteers, for placing the homeless blind man and woman in an institution.

The law creating the Commission requires that a complete register of the blind in the State be maintained, describing the condition, cause of blindness, capacity for educational and industrial training of each; 10,897 cases have been registered.

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